

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 05914 040846Z
ACTION AF-10

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R 031633Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5211
INFO USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 5914

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, SG
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: PORT SEDAR, CAYAR, KEUR FARAH PAHLAVI

REF: (A) DAKAR 4776 (NOTAL), (B) DAKAR 4658, (C) DAKAR 0628,
(D) DAKAR 0327, PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT EARLY JULY MEETING IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN GOS MINISTER OF PLAN ALEXANDRENNE AND WORLD BANK OFFICIALS MARKED BANK CURTAILMENT OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH PORT SEDAR AND PROPOSED CAYAR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. BANK LINE IS THAT PROJECT, EVEN SCALED DOWN, IS UNFEASIBLE.

2. EMBOFF VISITED IRASENCO (IRANIAN-SENEGALESE OIL COMPANY WHICH COORDINATED PLANNING FOR CAYAR COMPLEX) OFFICES AND FOUND ATMOSPHERE GLUM IN WAKE OF IBRD DECISION. ADMINISTRATOR DIARAF DIOUF HAS QUIT, LEAVING ABDOULAYE DIAO. SENEGALESE PETROLEUM ENGINEER, IN CHARGE. ONE NIOC ADVISOR REMAINS. DIAO, WHO WAS PRESENT AT WORLD BANK MEETING, TOLD US THAT ALEXANDRENNE HAD BECOME EXTREMELY ANGRY AND ACCUSED BANK OF STRINGING SENEGAL ALONG FOR PAST THREE YEARS.

3. DIAO HELD OUT SOME HOPE THAT IRAN WOULD CONTINUE TO BACK PROJECT. HE TOLD US THAT EMPRESS FARAH IS DUE TO VISIT SENEGAL
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 05914 040846Z

IN JANUARY 1979 TO INAUGURATE "INDUSTRIAL CITY" OF KEUR FARAH PAHLAVI.

4. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LOCAL SAR OIL REFINERY (SOCIETE AFRICAINE DE RAFFINAGE) HAS VOTED TO INITIATE EXPANSION WHICH WOULD NEARLY DOUBLE PRESENT 900,000-TON CAPACITY. SUCH ACTION WOULD CLEARLY OBVIATE NEED FOR NEW

REFINING CAPACITY FOR MANY YEARS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS OFTEN REPORTED (REFTELS) ITS SKEPTICISM OF SEDAR/CAYAR SCHEME. WE WELCOME IBRD'S DECISION AS BEING IN SENEGAL'S BEST INTERESTS, ALTHOUGH WE AGREE WITH ALEXANDRENNE THAT BANK WAS INORDINATELY SLOW IN COMING TO CONCLUSION. WE EXPECT IRAN TO FOLLOW SUIT AND DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM PROJECT, ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE SOME DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING SENEGALESE TO FORGET "KEUR FARAH PAHLAVI - INDUSTRIAL HUB OF SENEGAL IN 2000", SLOGAN WHICH OFTEN RECEIVES MEDIA PLAY HERE.
GALANTO

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Message Attributes

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